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# U.S. Department of Interior Issues Final Sale Notice for Maryland Offshore ‘Wind Energy Area’

July 2nd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Today, the United States Department of Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued the Final Sale Notice for Maryland’s offshore Wind Energy Area (WEA) — the last major regulatory step before BOEM can auction the lease areas within the WEA. The auction for the nearly 80,000 acres offshore Maryland will occur on August 19, 2014.

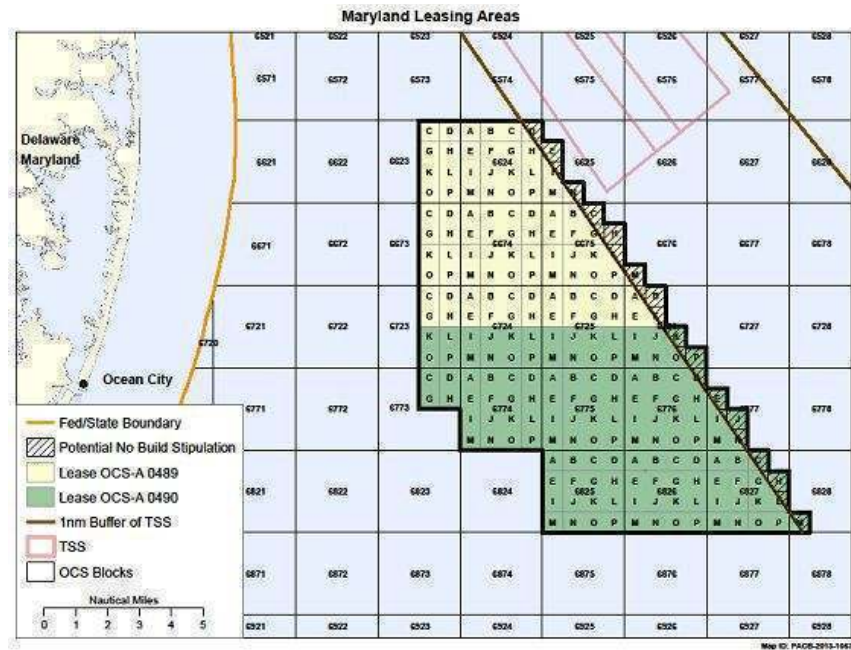
“To combat climate change, we must develop cleaner, renewable sources of energy — and today’s announcement is a tremendous step forward for the U.S. offshore wind industry,” said **Governor O’Malley**. “As we continue our work to drive up [renewable energy generation in Maryland by 20 percent by 2022](#), the O’Malley-Brown Administration is committed to continuing to work with our federal partners to do everything we can to meet this goal and create a stronger, more sustainable future for generations to come.”

“Maryland is a leading force for building a clean and sustainable energy future,” said **Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell**. “Thanks to Governor O’Malley’s leadership and significant stakeholder involvement through BOEM’s Maryland Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, we have reached another milestone as we strengthen our nation’s foothold in the new energy frontier.”

The Maryland WEA covers approximately 94 square nautical miles of ocean beginning 10 nautical miles (approx. 11.5 miles) off the shores of Ocean City, Maryland. The area is further subdivided into northern and southern lease areas in order to ensure efficient use of the available area and support competition. BOEM has solicited input from developers and the public regarding this area, most recently, in December of 2013, through a Proposed Sale Notice.

As noted by **Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) Director Abigail Ross Hopper**, “Today’s action represents the culmination of years of comprehensive marine spatial planning work with maritime stakeholders, coastal communities, academic institutions, and Maryland businesses. This collaboration will ensure that offshore wind energy can be developed in harmony with the environment and other users of the oceans.”

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MEA and other Maryland agencies have invested significant resources in atmospheric, ecological, and geophysical surveys of the WEA, making it the most closely studied area of the Outer Continental Shelf under consideration for offshore wind development. Major surveys of marine mammals and other wildlife in the area are continuing to ensure that offshore wind projects can be developed without impacting the marine environment.

For more information about this initiative, please visit: <http://www.boem.gov/State-Activities-Maryland/>

To find out more about Maryland's plan to address climate change, please visit: <http://climatechange.maryland.gov/>



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# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on the Passing of Former Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry

July 2nd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley issued the following statement on the death of former Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry:

*"Today I join the Prince George's County community and Marylanders across the State in mourning the loss of my friend and one of Maryland's most forward-thinking leaders, Wayne Curry. As Prince George's County Executive, Mr. Curry led the County through one of the most transformative periods in its history, overseeing the County's explosive population and economic growth.*

*"Over the course of the eight years we worked together, I witnessed his tireless advocacy on behalf of the people he served and his fearless efforts to advance causes beneficial to Prince George's County and the African-American community statewide. Katie and I, along with many around our State, offer our deepest condolences to the family of County Executive Curry."*



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# Governor O'Malley Announces Appointments to State Boards and Commissions

July 2nd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today announced appointments to a number of boards, commissions and councils. Collectively, the group represents the extraordinary skills, talents and diversity of the State of Maryland.

"These individuals have a proven record of achievement and possess the expertise and experience worthy of the people of Maryland," **Gov. O'Malley said**. "I'm proud to appoint diverse, highly-skilled candidates who represent the best Maryland has to offer, and I'm confident in their ability to move our State forward."

Some of the individuals appointed include:

**Catherine J. (Cassie) Motz, Esq. – University System of Maryland Board of Regents.** Ms. Motz currently serves as Executive Director of the CollegeBound Foundation. Formerly, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Martin O'Malley. Ms. Motz earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Dartmouth College and her Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School. She is President of the Baltimore Outreach Services Board and Secretary of the Baltimore KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) Charter Schools Board.

**Eleanor M. Carey, Esq. – Morgan State University Board of Regents.** Ms. Carey is a Partner with Synergies Consulting Group. As an attorney in private practice, she conducted major public investigations of financial and educational institutions. Ms. Carey also served as Deputy Attorney General of Maryland from 1979-1987, Senior Counselor to the Governor from 1995-1998 and President of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board from 1998-2003. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Wellesley College and Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland School of Law. A member of the Governor's Pre-K to 20 Commission, she is President of the Baltimore Efficiency & Economy Foundation and has been admitted to the Circle of Excellence of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

**Dawn Kirstaetter – Board of Trustees of Residential Boarding Education Programs.** Ms. Kirstaetter serves as Deputy Mayor of Health, Human Services, Education and Youth for the Baltimore City Mayor's Office. Prior to joining the

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Mayor's Office, she served as Chief Operating Officer for Associated Black Charities, as a consultant for her own firm of Kirstaetter & Associates and as Executive Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. Ms. Kirstaetter received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Georgetown University and a Master of Social Work degree from Clark Atlanta University. She is a board member for the Maryland SPCA and Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

**Monica Johnson, Esq. – Chair of the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board.** Ms. Johnson is currently a professor of Business Ethics at the University of Maryland University College. She previously served as the Chief Procurement Officer and Fair Practices Officer for Prince George's County Government and as Assistant Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She earned her B.S. Degree *magna cum laude* in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, an MBA from John Hopkins and her law degree from Boston University Law School.

**Wanda Martinez, Esq. – Member of the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board.** Wanda Martinez is an attorney with Rismiller Law Group, LLC and formerly served as Special Counsel to the Montgomery County Office of Child Support Enforcement. Ms. Martinez is a graduate of the New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Juris Doctor degree from The Columbia School of Law, Catholic University of America. She also serves as President of the Government Public Safety and Administration Cluster Advisory Board.

**Mamata Poch, Esq. – Member of the State Open Meetings Law Compliance Board.** Ms. Poch is currently an Offset and Industrial Trade Manager for Northrop Grumman. Prior to this position, she served as an International Trade Analyst for Northrop Grumman. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Penn State University and her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. She was awarded the Corporate Global Trade Management Award for Performance in 2013.

**Katrina Dennis, Esq. – Maryland Transportation Authority.** Ms. Dennis is a Principal with the firm Kramon & Graham, P.A., where she specializes in employment law, personal injury matters and contract disputes. Ms. Dennis is a *cum laude* graduate of the University Of Baltimore School Of Law and the University of North Carolina with a B.A. degree in Psychology with honors. Ms. Dennis was recognized as one of the "Rising Stars" in *Maryland Super Lawyers* for 2013 and 2014, and *The Daily Record* also named her as one of Maryland's Leading Women in 2013.

**Martin G. Knott, Jr. – Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (MAIF) Board of Trustees.** Mr. Knott is President and CEO of Knott Mechanical, Inc., Co-Founder and Vice President of Wye River Technologies, LLC, Co-Founder of Revere Strategies, LLC and Principal and Founder of Center Maryland. He also teaches coursework at the McDonogh School. Mr. Knott received his Bachelor of Science degree in Entrepreneurial Studies at Xavier University.

**Maria Harris Tildon, Esq. – Board for the Chesapeake Employer's Insurance Company.** Ms. Tildon currently serves as CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield's Senior Vice President for Public Policy & Community Affairs. Prior to joining CareFirst, Ms. Tildon was Senior Vice President of External Affairs for The Century Council. Ms.



Tildon received her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Boston University and her J.D. degree from The American University, Washington College of Law. She serves on the Board of the Directors for The Leadership Greater Baltimore Committee and was named as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2010 by the *Daily Record*.

**John P. Coale, Esq. – Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program Board –** Mr. Coale is a retired attorney having run his own private practice of law until retirement in 2006. His practice focused on tort law representing plaintiffs in environmental cases including victims of environmental negligence, plaintiffs in tobacco related lawsuits and workers in unsafe working environments. Mr. Coale received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

**Oscar Ramirez, Esq. – Chesapeake Bay Trust Board of Trustees.** Mr. Ramirez is a Principal at the Podesta Group. He previously served as Special Assistant and Chief of Staff to Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA), Deputy Chief of Staff to Rep. Al Green (D-TX) and Legislative Director to Rep. Joe Baca (D-CA). He served two terms as President of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and was named by Washington Life Magazine as one of "Washington DC's most influential movers and shakers under 40". He sits on the Board of Advisors of Voces Verdes, a national coalition of Latino leaders who support sustainable environmental progress, and the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Arts degree from The George Washington University and a Juris Doctorate from George Washington University.

**Janet S. Owens – State Board of Elections.** Ms. Owens formerly served as Anne Arundel County Executive, Judge of the Orphans' Court for Anne Arundel County, Director of the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Director of the Anne Arundel County Housing Authority. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The George Washington University, a Master in Education degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and was a Doctoral Candidate in Educational Management at the University of Massachusetts School of Education. Ms. Owens serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the University of Maryland at Baltimore Foundation.

**Trisch L. Smith – Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission.** Ms. Smith is Executive Vice-President at Edelman, a global communications firm. Prior to joining Edelman, Ms. Smith was an account manager at Widmeyer Communications and interned in the public relations departments of The American Red Cross and WUSA Channel9. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Black Child Development Institute, ColorComm: Women of Color in Communications and the corporate advisory board of Mentoring USA. She is also member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and serves as a ministry leader at Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. Ms. Smith received a Master of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Maryland at College Park and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Morgan State University.

**Nicholas E. Johansson, Esq. – Maryland Economic Development Commission.** Mr. Johansson has been an attorney with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP since 2004. Prior to that, he served as an attorney for the Baltimore City Solicitor's Office. Mr. Johansson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in

International Relations from the University of California at Berkley and his law degree from the George Washington University Law School. For several years, he served as Board President of the Albemarle Square Townhouse Condominium Association. He is the author of several articles on Elder Law issues.

**The Honorable Thomas Ward – Chair of the Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners.** Judge Ward is a retired Judge from the Baltimore City Circuit Court, having served for 14 years on the bench. He attended Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, earned his legal degree at the University of Maryland School of Law and attended The Johns Hopkins University Graduate School. He is also a graduate of infantry school & airborne & glider school from the U.S. Army and is a former reporter for The Baltimore Sun. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore City Historical Society and author of numerous conservation articles published in newspapers and magazines throughout the U.S.

**Dana Petersen Moore, Esq. – Baltimore City Board of License Commissioners** –Ms. Moore is the owner of Petersen Moore LLC, in Baltimore MD. She has been Counsel at Venable LLP, Baltimore and a partner at Whiteford, Taylor and Preston, LLP, Baltimore. Ms. Moore has served on the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Baltimore City, the Maryland Appellate Courts Nominating Commission, the Bates College Board of Trustees and Mother Seaton Academy and the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel. She chaired the Baltimore City Board of Ethics and chaired the leadership program of the Greater Baltimore Committee. Ms. Moore earned her degree in English Literature from the Bates College and her Juris Doctorate from the Washington and Lee University School of Law.



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# Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on Credit Rating Agencies' Triple AAA Bond Rating

July 8th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley issued the following statement after all three major rating agencies reaffirmed the State of Maryland's AAA bond rating:

*"Fiscal responsibility, and taking a balanced approach to investments and cuts, are essential to strengthening our economy."*

*"Since 2007, we have made \$9.5 billion worth of cuts — more than any administration in modern Maryland history — and our executive branch is the smallest it's been on a per capita basis since the early 1970s. But we've also invested in key priorities like education, innovation, and infrastructure so that we can build an economy that works."*

*"The major bond ratings agencies endorsed our fiscally responsible approach, and once again reaffirmed Maryland's AAA bond rating. We are one of only 7 states to maintain that top rating throughout the recession."*

*"We have to invest together so that our children can be winners in the changing global economy. We will continue to make those investments in a fiscally responsible way."*



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# Governor O'Malley's Statement on Successful Negotiations between 1199SEIU Workers and Johns Hopkins

July 8th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor O'Malley today issued the following statement on the successful agreement between 1199SEIU workers and Johns Hopkins:

*"Congratulations to 1199SEIU and Johns Hopkins on coming together to reach an agreement. This is a positive resolution for Hopkins and its worker — and it's also good for all Marylanders, because when workers earn more money, businesses have more customers and our economy grows."*



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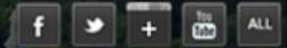


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# Governor O'Malley Visits Red Owl Analytics, Continues "Governing For Results" Tour

July 8th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Red Owl Analytics, a Baltimore-based cyber security company, as part of the "Governing for Results" tour – a series of events focused on the State's performance management efforts, doing what works to address emerging challenges and the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's strategic 16 goals](#) to move Maryland forward.

Today's event touched on the Administration's strategic investments in high-growth sectors like cyber security, bio tech and R&D—actions that helped the Administration achieve [its goal to recover 100 percent of jobs lost during the Great Recession by the end of FY 2014](#). Over the last year, Maryland has created more than 22,000 jobs with nearly 85 percent of those jobs created in the State's dynamic private sector.

Governor O'Malley met with company officials and employees and was given a demonstration of the company's flagship product Reveal, a first-of-its-kind software application that provides proactive risk oversight for financial services companies, legal and investigative firms, and the U.S. government's intelligence community. The company, which was founded in 2011, has 25 employees in Baltimore's Federal Hill neighborhood and plans to double its workforce over the next few years. Red Owl was one of the winners of the inaugural [Invest Maryland Challenge](#) in 2013, taking home a \$100,000 prize in the IT category, and was named "Most Innovative Company" at the 2014 RSA Conference Innovation Sandbox.

"In Maryland, we're investing in education, innovation, and infrastructure so that companies like Red Owl will continue to invest and create jobs in Maryland," said **Governor O'Malley**. "With tools like the Cyber Tax credit, we're helping companies like Red Owl address our nation's emergent cyber security challenges and further positioning our state as the national epicenter of cybersecurity."

"By continuing to make strategic investments in thriving sectors like cybersecurity, we'll continue to create jobs and grow Maryland's economy," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "We remain committed to working in partnership with companies like Red Owl in order to make Maryland the best place to live, work, and raise a family."

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"The support from Governor O'Malley and the State of Maryland has been exceptional," said **RedOwl CEO, Guy Filippelli**. "Their commitment to fostering innovation throughout the region is one of the primary reasons we chose Baltimore to build our company. We love being a part of such an exciting entrepreneurial scene."

Red Owl is continuing to grow in Maryland. Last month, the company announced it had raised \$4.6 million in new capital from investors, including several San Francisco-based venture capitalists and Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank. The company also recently hired Michael Madon, a former U.S. Department of Treasury official to lead its fast-growing government portfolio.

"[Governing for Results](#)" is a statewide effort to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the different strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



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# Governor O'Malley Makes Ceremonial Second Call on "Maryland FiRST" New Statewide 700 MHz Radio System

July 18th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley joined Superintendent of the Maryland State Police Colonel Marcus Brown, and several other state and local officials to make the ceremonial second call on the Maryland First Responders Interoperable Radio System Team or "Maryland FiRST," the new statewide 700 MHz radio system.

Today's event continues the '[Governing for Results](#)' series, which highlights the [Administration's 16 strategic goals](#) to keep Maryland moving forward. Today's focus was on one of the Administration's primary homeland security [goals](#) — to connect first responders on one interoperable radio system to better coordinate state and local resources in the event of an emergency.



"We are unified in our efforts to provide first responders with the tools they need to continue saving lives and protecting the public's safety," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Our most sacred duty as a government is the safety and security our people. By setting measurable goals and investing in better technology, we will continue to meet evolving challenges together and build a stronger and more resilient Maryland."

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Governor O'Malley made the ceremonial **second** call today on the new radio system connecting the Maryland Joint Operations Center at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Maryland State Police Centreville Barracks, the State Highway Administration's Easton District, a Department of Natural Resources vessel located off of Deal Island, and with Ocean City Emergency Services Department.

In total there are eleven State agencies and three Federal law enforcement agencies operating on the system. As a result of the completion of phase 2, the entire Eastern Shore is now covered.

"This second phase of the new statewide secure radio system will allow for even more of Maryland's public safety agencies to communicate more efficiently on the same system, which will ultimately enhance our mission of homeland security," said **Colonel Marcus L. Brown**, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police.

"Achieving maximum interoperability is a high priority for those who dedicate their lives to public safety. This new technology provides increased efficiency, heightened awareness as situations occur and an even more rapid response time."

"[Maryland FiRST](#)" began providing statewide interoperable communications to connect Maryland's first responders on one secure radio system in 2012. This first phase became fully operational in 2012. The first phase connection completed coverage for Central Maryland and Kent County, and key infrastructure patrolled by the Maryland Transportation Authority Police which includes: the I-95 corridor, BWI Airport, Port of Baltimore, the Inter County Connector (ICC), the Key Bridge, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Harry Nice Bridge and both tunnels under the Baltimore harbor. The entire Maryland FiRST system is anticipated to be complete by 2016.

"[Governing for Results](#)" is a statewide effort to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the different strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



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# 'Governing for Results' Tour Highlights Commitment to Reducing Overdose Deaths in Maryland

July 24th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today unveiled new data on overdose deaths occurring in the first half of 2014. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the state has committed to [drive down overdose deaths by 20 percent by 2015](#) and has added drug and alcohol overdose deaths to the [Administration's 16 strategic goals](#).

Overdose deaths represent one of the most compelling public health challenges facing the nation. Locally, here in Maryland, there were more overdose deaths than traffic fatalities in 2013. As one of the strategies to address the overdose epidemic in Maryland, Governor O'Malley signed an [executive order](#) establishing the [Overdose Prevention Council](#) just last month. The Council will advise and assist in establishing an unprecedented effort among multiple State agencies to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Maryland.

"The Overdose Council represents a new level of coordination, data collection, analysis, and information sharing among State agencies. Together, as One Maryland, we're breaking down silos to collect up-to-date statistics, better target resources and empower citizens to combat this epidemic and save lives," said Governor O'Malley. "With this data guiding us, we will continue to fight to keep Maryland families and communities safe while also developing innovative strategies to reduce the number of overdose deaths in Maryland."

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released [a report that contains updated overdose intoxication data for the first quarter of 2014 and two data briefs](#). The report and data briefs shows that from January to March 2014 there were 252 total overdose deaths, a 33 percent increase from the same time last year. The increase is largely driven by a rise in the number of deaths related to fentanyl-laced heroin since last fall, which coincides with trends reported by states up and down the East Coast. The data briefs also show an increase in heroin-related emergency department visits from 2008 to 2013.

To combat the rise of opioid overdoses, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Maryland State Police have launched a new initiative to train and equip Maryland State Troopers with naloxone, a life-saving medication that can safely and effectively reverse opioid overdoses. As of July 1, 2014, the State Police has

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collaborated with local health officers in Cecil County, Allegany County, and Somerset County to participate in the effort where troopers, along with county and municipal police officers, will be trained and equipped with Naloxone.

“Our goal is to train and equip each of our patrol troopers with this life saving medication,” Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Marcus L. Brown said. “As first responders, our troopers have the potential for saving lives by providing prompt treatment to overdose victims. We will also support the state’s efforts in the overdose prevention public awareness campaign. Our 22 barrack commanders are already informing citizens in each county of the increase in overdose deaths, the fact that no region of the state is immune, and that help is available to anyone by dialing 211 to locate the closest treatment resources.”

The press conference today continues the “[Governing for Results](#)” series — a statewide effort to promote the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s 16 strategic goals and highlight Maryland’s progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the different strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



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# Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Issue Statements on FBI Headquarters Site Evaluations

July 29th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown issued the following statements after a joint panel of the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) identified sites in Greenbelt and Landover as potential locations for the new FBI Headquarters:

### Statement from Governor O'Malley:

*"I applaud the General Services Administration for its decision to name two Maryland sites to the short list of locations being considered for the new FBI headquarters. Today's announcement is a positive step forward for our State and for Prince George's County."*

*"Both Greenbelt Station and Landover Mall are outstanding options. Establishing the FBI headquarters at either site would provide phenomenal strategic advantages for the Bureau, catalyze sustainable development and bring more jobs and vitality to Prince George's County and Maryland. Thanks to the dedication of our Congressional delegation, local leadership and private sector partners, Maryland has two of the strongest proposals our State has ever seen."*

*"Our commitment to investing in the things that work has never been stronger. We'll continue to invest in education, to focus on innovation, and to rebuild our infrastructure. That's how we will ensure that our children are winners in the 21st century global economy."*

### Statement from Lt. Governor Brown:

*"Today's important announcement highlights the great assets that Maryland and Prince George's County can provide to the FBI: world-class universities, a highly trained workforce, a well-developed transit system, proximity to other key federal facilities, and strong partnerships between federal, state, and local government and community leaders."*

*"Together, we remain committed to bringing the FBI headquarters to Prince George's County because it will help grow our local economy and create job opportunities for Marylanders."*

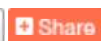
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# Governor O'Malley Announces Funding for Hagerstown Manufacturer

July 30th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) announced today that the State has approved a \$1 million conditional grant to Washington County to help facilitate the expansion of National Golden Tissue, a Hagerstown-based manufacturer of paper towels, bath and facial tissues and napkins. The company has acquired the former Boat USA building in Hagerstown and plans to upgrade the facility and more than double its workforce by adding 100 new jobs.

The State's grant comes through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), which are federal funds for community and economic development administered by DBED and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Washington County Board of County Commissioners has also approved a conditional loan of \$300,000 to the company and the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland has approved a \$400,000 loan.

"We are pleased to work with our many partners – Washington County, the Tri County Council for Western Maryland and SunTrust Bank – to help this home-grown Maryland company continue to expand and add new jobs," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "Manufacturing is an important part of Maryland's history and heritage, with growing manufacturers like National Golden Tissue adding to the caliber and diversity of the industry."

"Maryland's manufacturing industry is critical to our economic growth and we are committed to ensuring companies like National Golden Tissue have the support they need to stay and grow here, and to create good-paying, middle-class jobs for families across Maryland," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**.

"We are proud to be a manufacturer in the great state of Maryland," said **Gus Shahrooz, Chief Operating Officer for NGT**. "We owe a large portion of our success to the support we have received over the years from Washington County, Hagerstown, and the State. The level of cooperation and support that these organizations have given NGT should be a testament for any manufacturer in the country looking to relocate."

"National Golden Tissue has continued to grow and substantially increase jobs in our



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community in a challenging economy,” said **Terry Baker, President of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners**. “In partnership with the State, the County Commissioners and the Department of Business Development are pleased to continue supporting NGT’s job growth and capital investment and we look forward to the positive economic impact for our County’s citizens.”

“It is a great pleasure serving as the banking partner for the Shahrooz Brothers and National Golden Tissue as they execute their ambitious growth plans which will continue to create needed jobs in Hagerstown,” said **Adam Winder, Senior Vice President of Commercial Banking for SunTrust Bank**. “This project is a great example of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) using private sector funds in conjunction with government entities such as the State of Maryland, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and Washington County. SunTrust Bank is committed to supporting our local businesses and communities through creative partnerships like this.”

In addition to the CBBG grant, DBED will provide a \$5 million loan guarantee on an \$11.2 million loan from SunTrust Bank to National Golden Tissue, through the Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority (MIDFA). DBED has supported the continued growth of National Golden Tissue since production began in Hagerstown more than five years ago, and previously provided the company with a \$5.3 million MIDFA loan guarantee.

National Golden Tissue formed in Hagerstown, Washington County in 2008. NGT manufactures paper towels, bath and facial tissue, and napkins, and currently provides brand name and private label products throughout the United States and Canada. The family-owned company is managed by two brothers, Gus Shahrooz and Sam Shahrooz, who each have over 20 years of experience in the paper and manufacturing business.

#### About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State’s many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit [www.choosemaryland.org](http://www.choosemaryland.org).



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